## **Lawrence E. Downey**

Edurne Ganem

Lawrence E. Downey was a fighter pilot that participated in World War II. First Lieutenant Lawrence E. Downey was reported missing in action since June 19; he had been in England 7 months.

The only address that was found was his mothers, Mrs. Dereva V. Downey; she was reported to live in Chula Vista- 1116 Second Ave. More information revealed that she past away in 1980 and that she was buried in Escondido.

Most of the information that was found was extracted from two articles that were published in the Star News of 1944.

Other information follows: Lawrence E. Downey entered the service from Nebraska.

He was a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Air Force. His service number was 0-677997. He was assigned to the 374<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, of the 361<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He flew the P51B "Mustang" fighter aircraft



P51 "Mustang"

Lawrence Downey died on June 19, 1944, less than two weeks after D-Day. His name appears in the Brittany American Cemetery in St. James, France. The location of his headstone is Plot F, Row 2, Grave #3.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and the Purple Heart

